



## THE SENIORS COALITION

*Working for a Responsible America*

November 18, 2003

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0522

Dear Congressman Thomas:

On behalf of our four million supporters nationwide, I would like to congratulate you for the thoughtful and meaningful debate that has led to the current bipartisan Medicare bill. This bill includes many of the improvements for which The Seniors Coalition has advocated since our inception in 1989, and we believe it is an important first step in improvements that will make Medicare sustainable and affordable for current and future generations.

We are especially pleased with the inclusion of a prescription drug benefit and the immediate relief that will be extended to our seniors through the prescription drug discount card. We support the measures put in place to protect those seniors who already benefit from employer-sponsored plans with prescription coverage. Furthermore, we are pleased to see that America's seniors will be less at risk from the dangers of imported drugs now that they can find relief from the burdensome cost of prescription drugs without resorting to unregulated and dangerous sources for their prescriptions. We are pleased with the provisions that will subsidize low-income seniors and that will ensure that generic drugs are brought to market sooner.

We share our seniors' concerns for the immediate inclusion of oral anti-cancer drugs in the final bill, and we urge Congress to keep its promise to all who paid into the Medicare trust fund by keeping equal coverage available to seniors, regardless of income.

We believe that our supporters will benefit greatly from all of these improvements, and, importantly, so will future generations. On behalf of our four million supporters, we strongly urge you to support this bill with the recommended improvements, and we offer you our support to that end.

Sincerely yours,

David Herman  
Executive Director